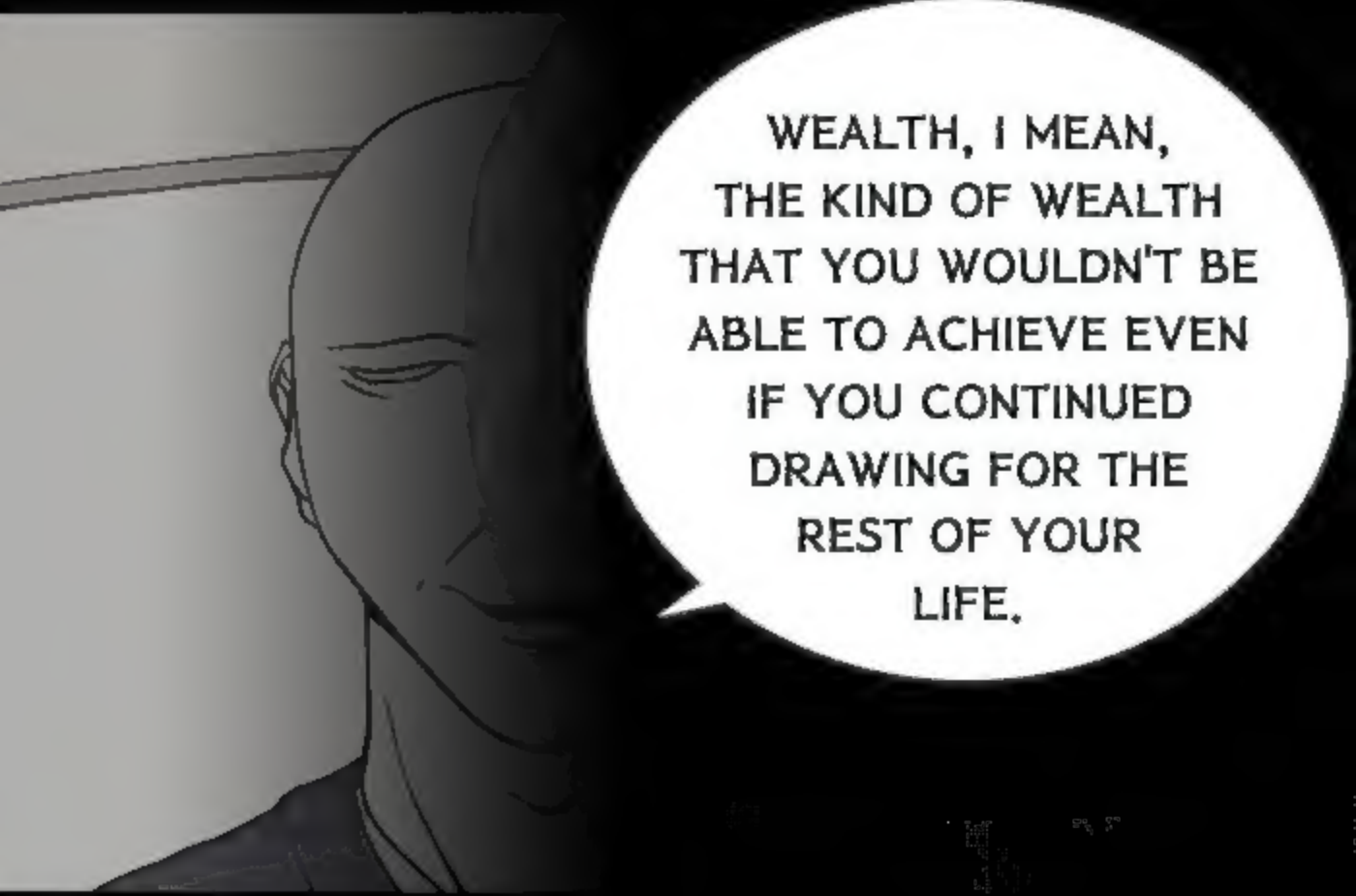
HE MADE

AN IMMENSE PROPOSAL.

COME JOIN US.
WE CAN GIVE IT
TO YOU.

BUT I KNEW WITHOUT HIM TELLING ME


WEALTH, I MEAN, THE KIND OF WEALTH THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE EVEN IF YOU CONTINUED DRAWING FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

THAT THE PROPOSAL REQUIRED

THAT I BETRAY MY FRIEND.

ARE YOU...
VILLAINS?
VILLAINS?
DO WE LOOK
LIKE VILLAINS?

WITH A SARDONIC SNORT,

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE VALUES OF THE INSTITUTION WERE SIMPLY DIFFERENT FROM THEIRS.

TO BE HONEST, IT WAS EXTREMELY TEMPTING.

THE IDEA OF GETTING MY 'DIGNITY' BACK FROM THEM

IN THE FORM OF MONEY AND HONOR

WAS VERY TEMPTING INDEED.

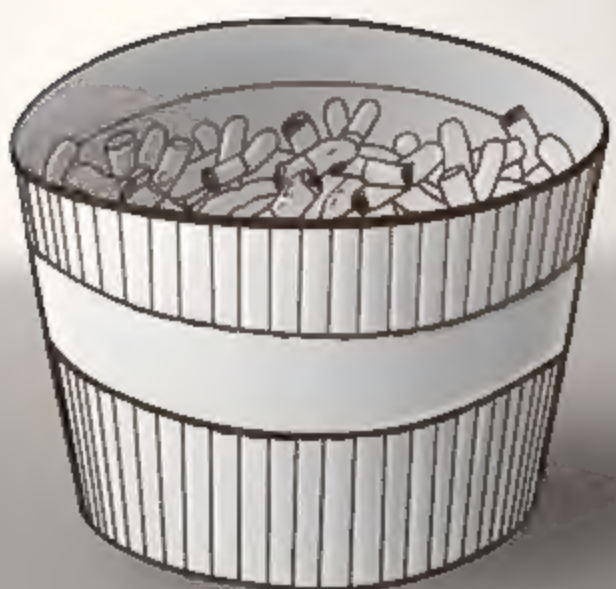
OF COURSE.
GO AHEAD.
HOWEVER,
WELL, I'LL BE
LOOKING FORWARD
TO SOME GOOD NEWS
FROM YOU.

HOWEVER...

FRIDAY
FORBIDDEN TALES
禁曜日

072. JEALOUSLY (3)

THINKING OVER THE PROPOSAL COUNTLESS TIMES,
AND RECALLING THAT SCENE OVER AND OVER,



I STRUGGLED, AND STRUGGLED,

AND STRUGGLED WITH MYSELF.

BUT THE WEIGHT OF WHAT
I WOULD HAVE TO LOSE IN RETURN

FOR WHAT THEY WOULD GIVE BACK TO ME,

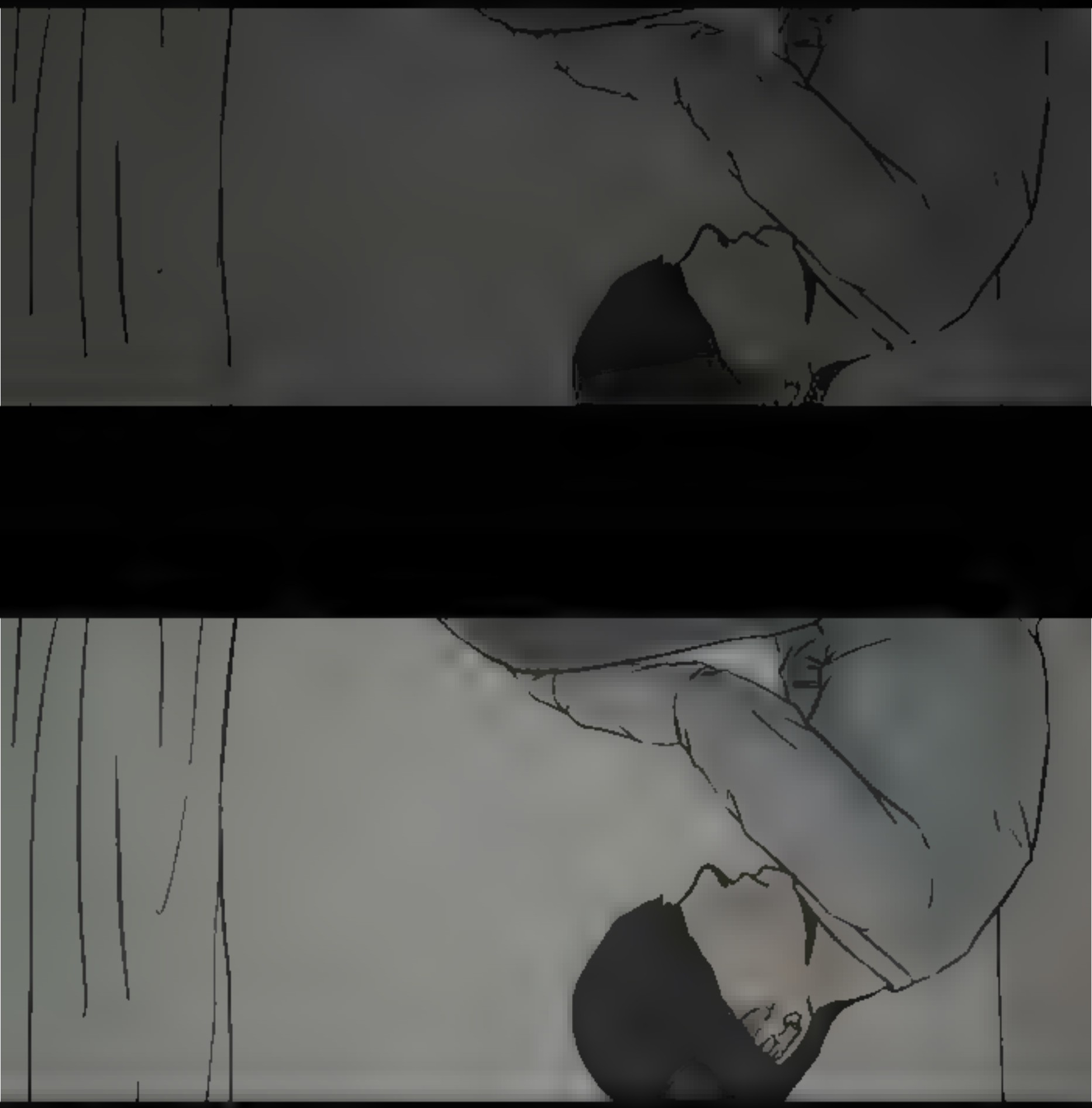
WAS CERTAINLY NOT
SOMETHING TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

ARE YOU
IN THERE?
I'M COMING IN.

I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO EAT. YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOU'VE BEEN EATING AT ALL LATELY.

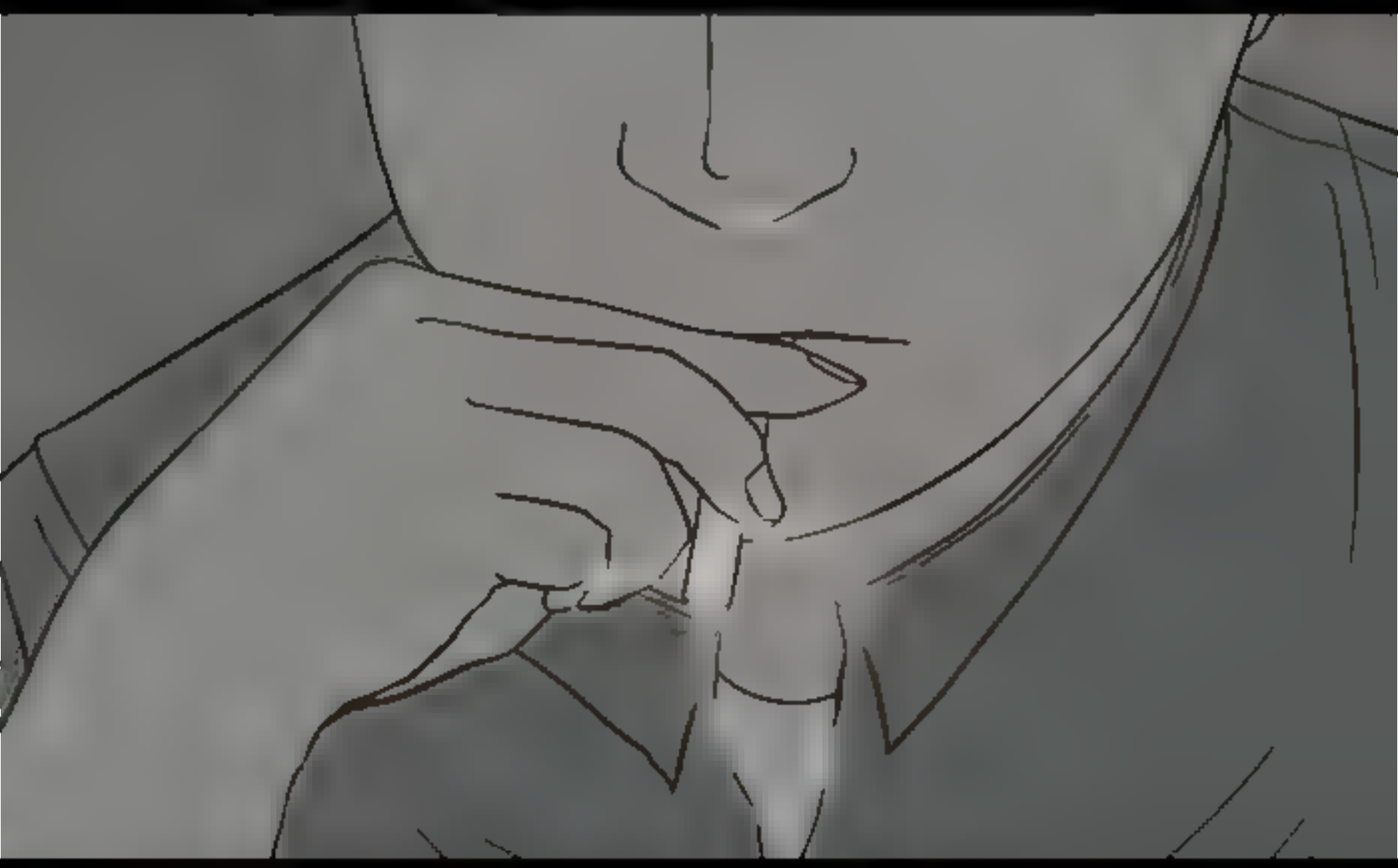
YOU COULDN'T HAVE THIS EARLIER... BECAUSE... WE FOUGHT...

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU LATELY...? ARE THINGS NOT GOING WELL WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND?



OF COURSE,

I WASN'T SOMEONE WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE LIVED WITH A PERFECTLY CLEAR CONSCIENCE OR TO MAINTAIN THE STRICTEST MORAL STANDARDS.

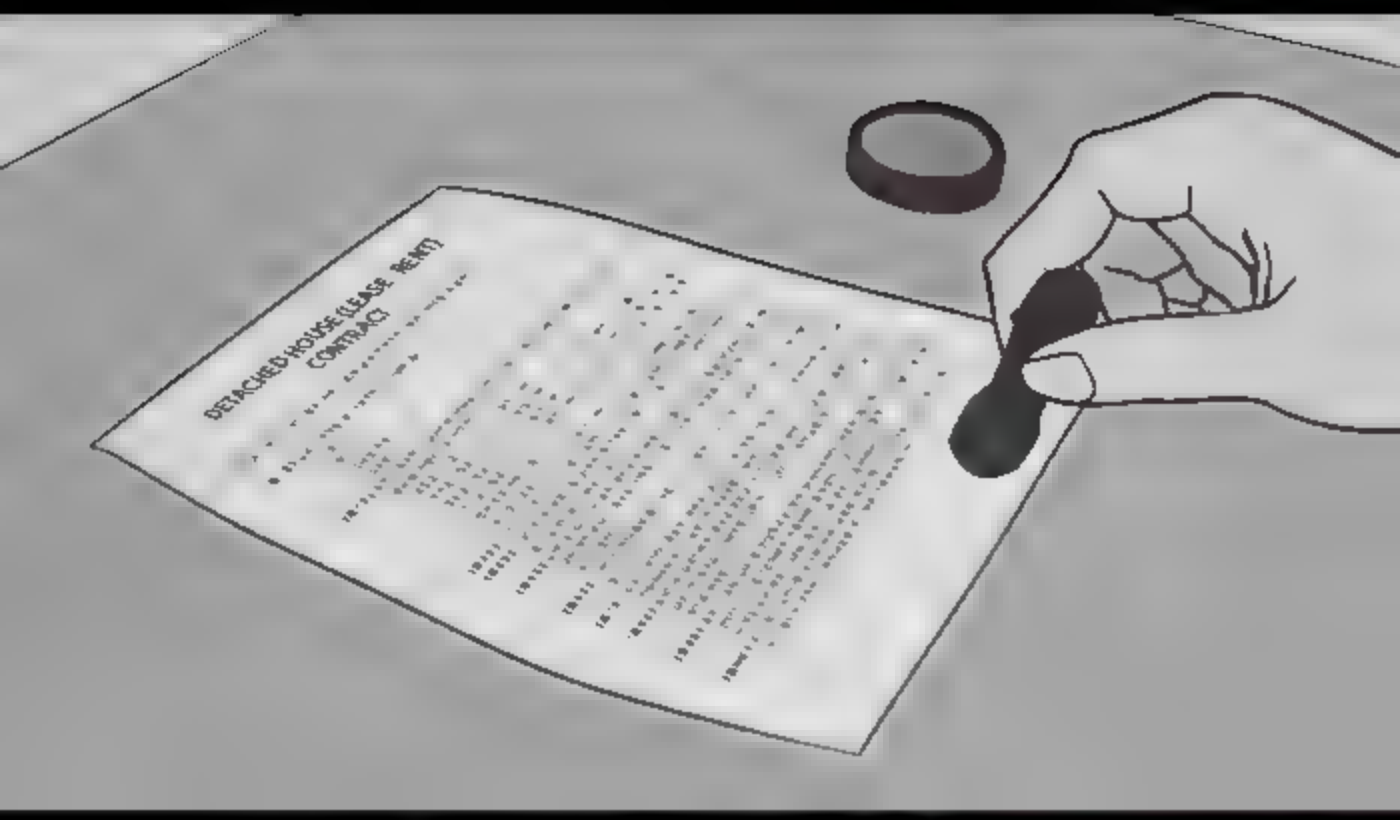


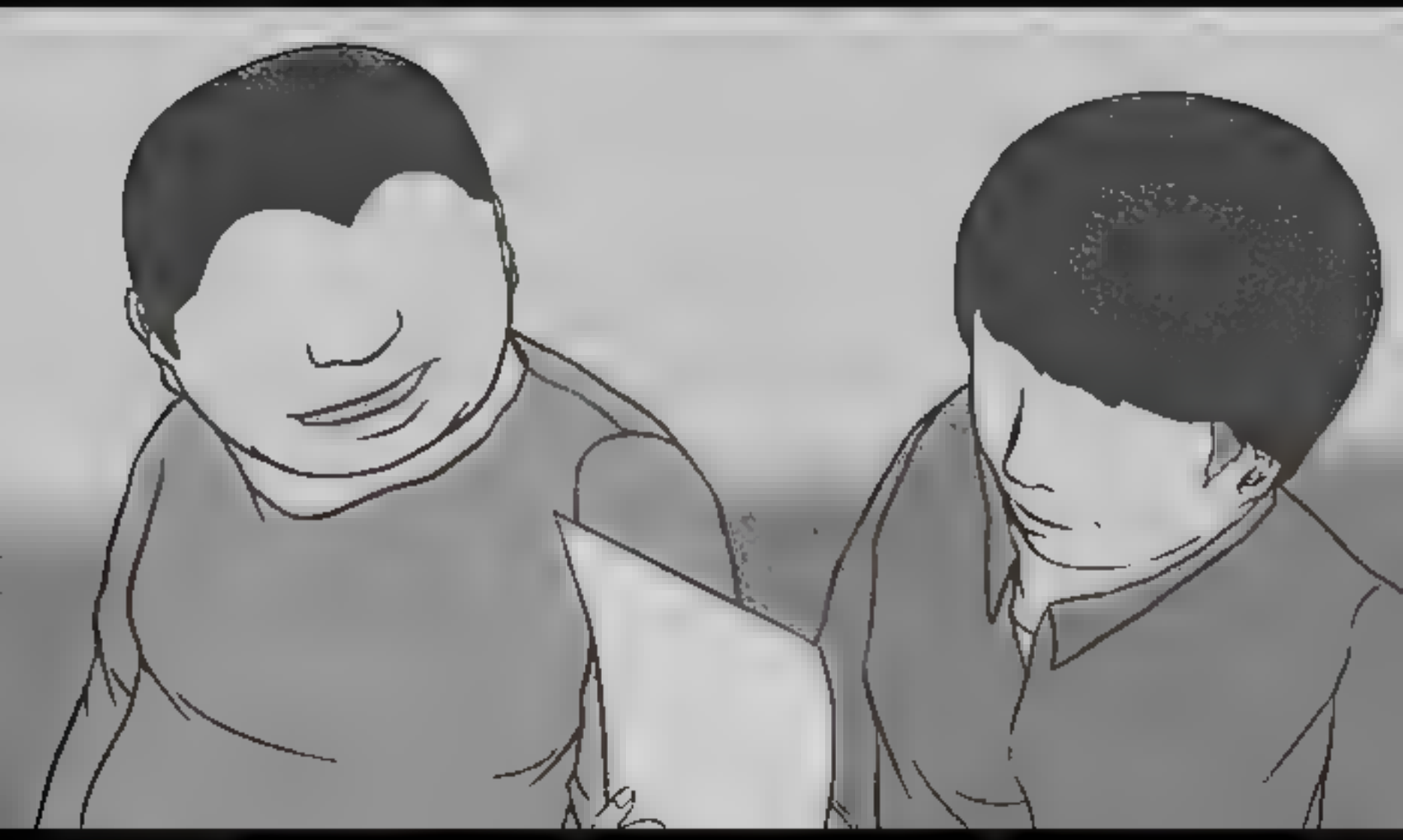
BUT AT THE SAME TIME,

I WAS ALSO NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WEAK ENOUGH TO BETRAY HIS OWN FRIEND,

OR TO BETRAY HIGHER PRINCIPLES JUST FOR THE SAKE OF A MORE ENJOYABLE LIFE.

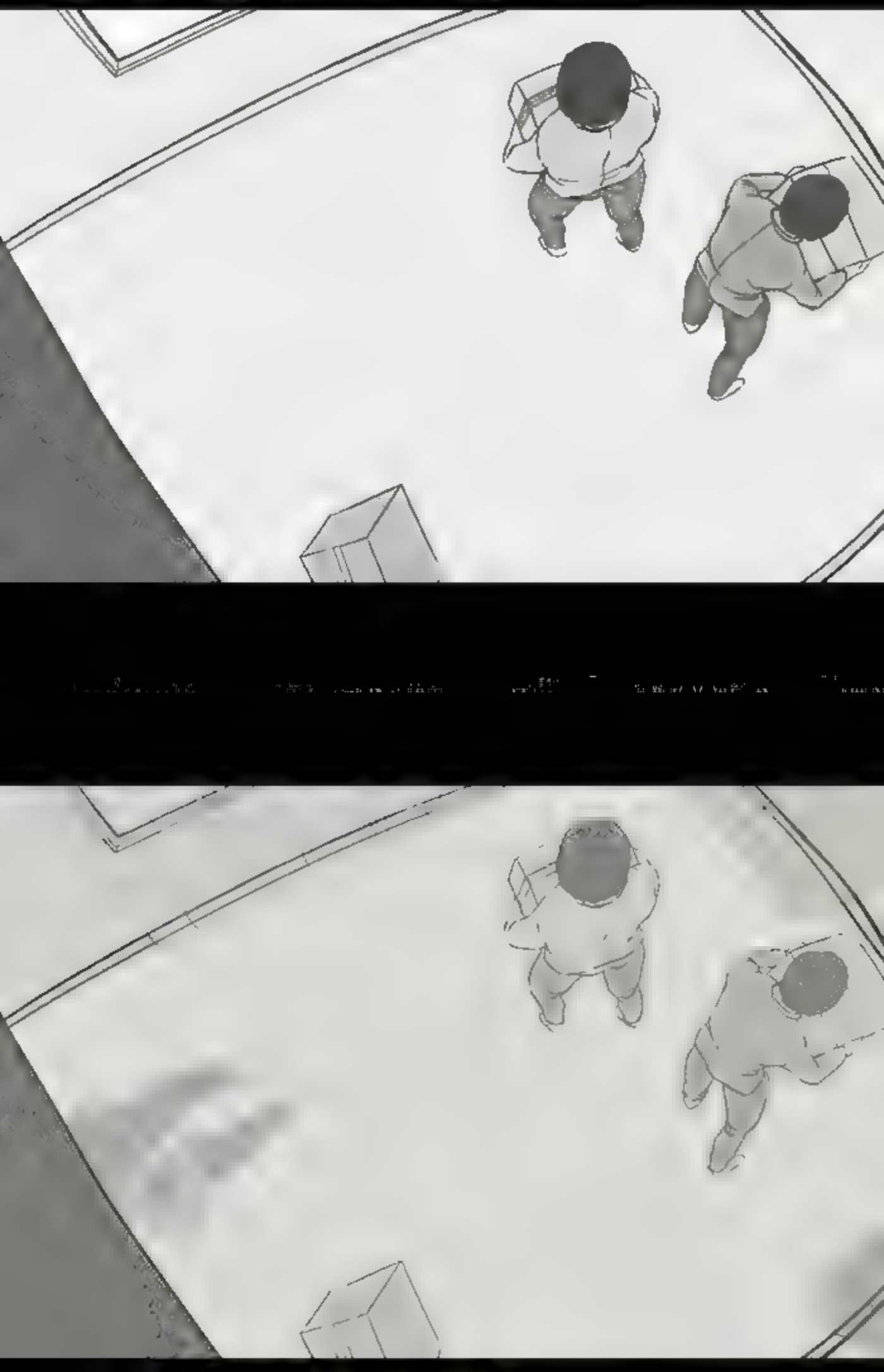
OF COURSE





THE PROPOSAL WOULD SOUND TEMPTING TO ANYONE.

BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO ACCEPT ITS CONDITIONS.



SO I DECIDED TO PRETEND LIKE
I HAD NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT.

AND, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ANY CONFLICT
THAT MAY ARISE FROM THIS,

I MADE A DECISION.

YOU'RE LEAVING? YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND IN HER APARTMENT?
YEAH, I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR BOTH OF US.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET.

IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT.

YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE WITH HER? TOGETHER?
TREMBLE-
EATING TOGETHER, KISSING AND HOLDING EACH OTHER...

THAT WAS WHEN

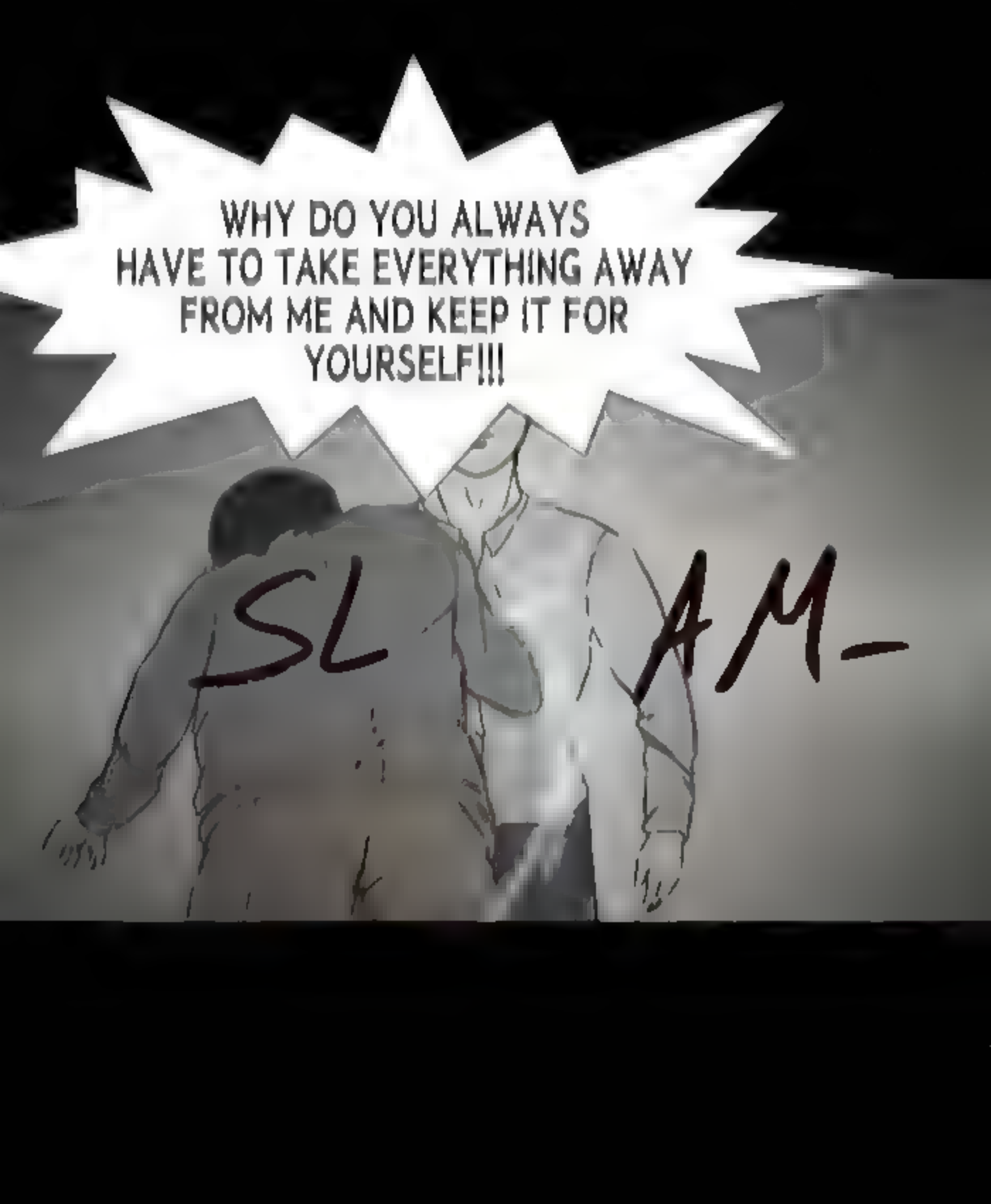
SOMETHING CHANGED IN HIS EYES.

WHAT? WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

FOR THE FIRST AND LAST TIME IN MY LIFE,
I SAW MY FRIEND'S EYES AND FACE

FILLED WITH A MURDEROUS RAGE.

WORKING OUT! STUDYING!
MY SUPERPOWER!
EVEN THE GIRL THAT I LIKE!!!


WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME AND KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF!!!
SL
AM-

THAT'S RIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED,
BUT I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION AT ALL.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE BEEN THROUGH THIS? ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF I GET DUMPED?

DO YOU HAVE TIME TOMORROW?
IT WAS MY FAULT FOR
NOT WAKING YOU UP.
I'LL BUY YOU GUYS DINNER.
WHAT'S UP
WITH YOU LATELY...?
ARE THINGS NOT GOING
WELL WITH YOUR
GIRLFRIEND?

I WAS JEALOUS OF HIM.

JEALOUS OF THAT ONE,
SINGLE POWER THAT HE HAD FINALLY OBTAINED.

BUT HE WAS FAR MORE DESPERATELY JEALOUS

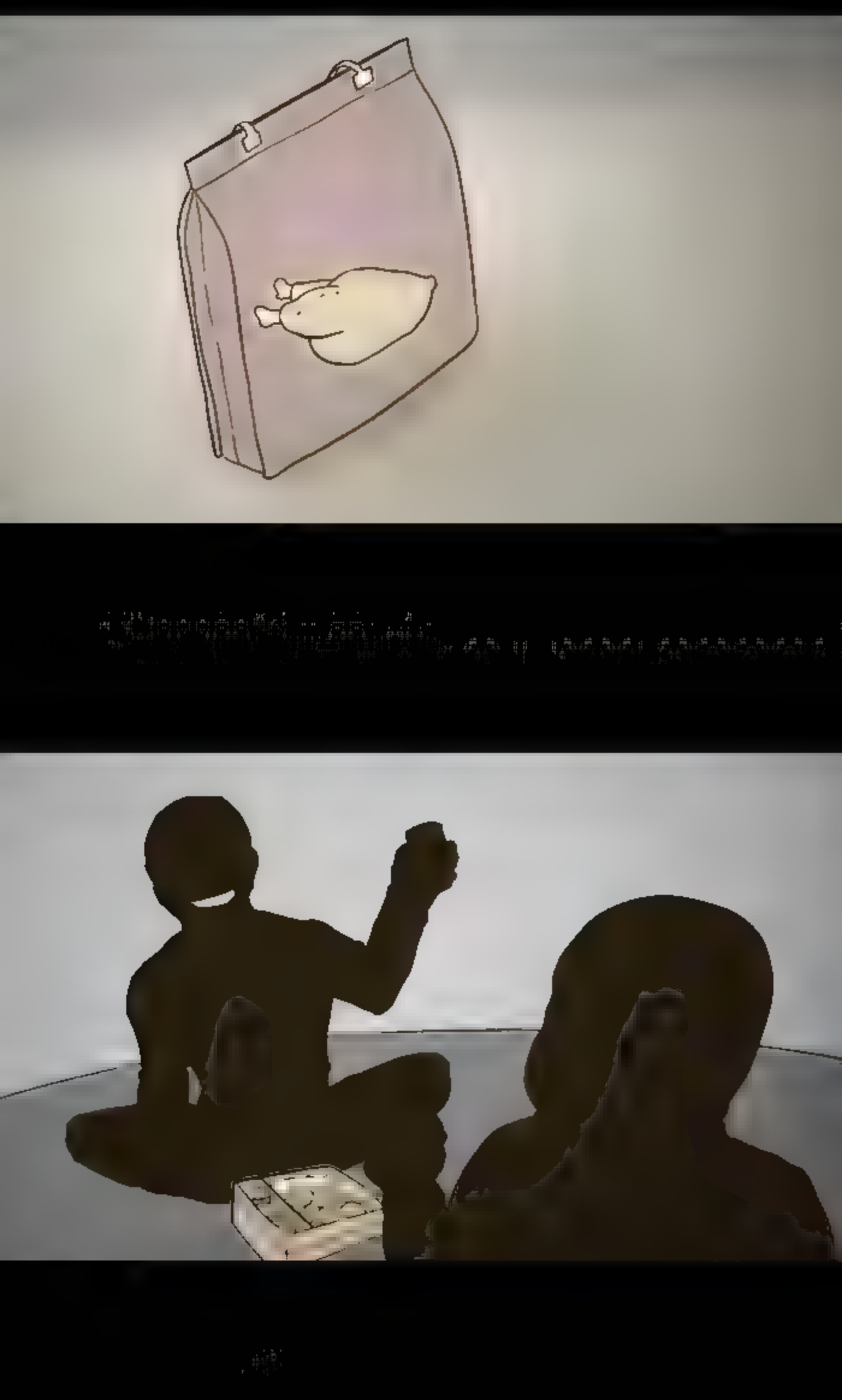
OF EVERYTHING THAT I HAD

THAN WHAT I WAS JEALOUS OF.

WHY.....

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

WHEN DID THIS BEGIN?



WE WERE SUCH...

GOOD FRIENDS....

WHEN, JUST WHEN...

DID THIS START....?

EVEN WITH SUPERPOWERS,

IN THE END, THEY WERE STILL MERE HUMANS.

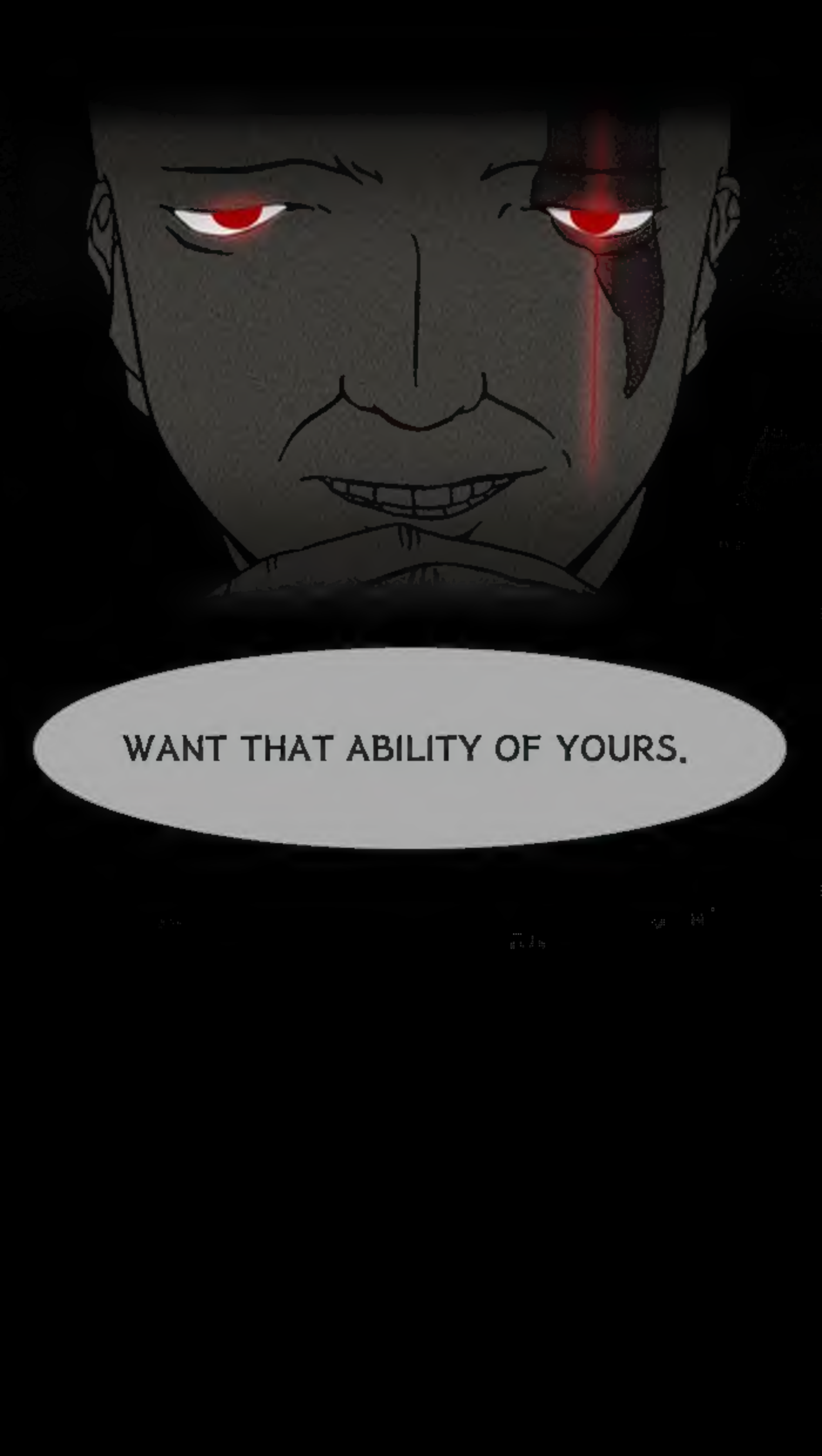
SINCE ONE OF THEM DIED,
AND THE OTHER WENT INSANE,
THIS IS VERY FORTUNATE
FOR OUR ORGANIZATION.

I GUESS THEY NEVER FIGURED OUT THAT SUPERPOWERS CAN ALSO BE ACTIVATED SIMPLY BY BEING CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER.

ESPECIALLY,
SINCE YOU "TWO" EVEN SHARED
A PHYSICAL CONNECTION....
HEHEHEHE....

YOUR ABILITY TO AMPLIFY JEALOUSY IS TRULY REMARKABLE.

SO REMARKABLE
THAT YOU EVEN
MAKE ME...


WANT THAT ABILITY OF YOURS.

JEALOUSLY_THE END

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